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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,261	09/17/2003	Krishna Kummamura	JP920030063US1	3403

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EXAMINER

LY, CHEYNE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2168

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/664,261	Applicant(s) KUMMAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Cheyne D. Ly	Art Unit 2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: .
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>dictionary.com (page 1)</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' arguments filed May 10, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.
2. The cancellation of claims 1-16 and the addition of claims 17-36 have been acknowledged.
3. Claims 17-36 are examined on the merits.
4. NON-FINAL.

OBJECTIONS

5. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. For example, see page 7, lines 20 and 21. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 17-20, 23, 26-31, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hetzler et al. (1998) (Hetzler hereafter).

CLAIMS INTERPRETATION

8. It is noted that Hetzler does not explicitly disclose the limitation of “profiling.”

However, as cited below, Hetzler discloses the required steps for the claimed method, therefore, the disclosed method of Hetzler has been interpreted as achieving the expected results of the claimed method, “profiling an entity.”

BASIS OF PRIOR ART

9. In regard to claim 17, Hetzler discloses a method of profiling an entity (Abstract etc.) the method comprising the steps of:

Retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search criteria (page 138, lines 9-23, and pages 139 to 140).

Clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to the entity (page 140, last paragraph, and page 143 in its entirety).

Retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one information source (page 139, lines 9-11);

Selecting features from the information retrieved at both of the retrieving steps to identify concepts associated with the entity with each identified context (page 138, last paragraph, and page 140, last paragraph); and

Structuring the identified concepts within each context (page 140, Figure 2, and page 142, Figure 3, and page 142, last paragraph).

Wherein the contexts are identified by find a set of the words or phrase that occur frequently with said entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the information source (page 141, line 17, to page 142 in its entirety). It noted

that the disclosure of “[v]alues close to 0 indicates that the two characters or concepts rarely (if ever) occurred in the same text” has been interpreted as “mutually do not appear together in documents.”

10. In regard to claim 18, Hetzler discloses a set comprising concepts that are exclusive to the identified context (page 140, last paragraph). Hetzler specifically discloses “group together relationships based on attributes, such as documents with the same author, same year of publication, same language, or same level of detail.”

11. In regard to claims 19 and 20, Hetzler discloses ranking said concepts within each set (page 140, last line to page 141, line 9). It is noted that Hetzler does not explicitly disclose the limitation of “ranking.” However, Hetzler discloses the reordering of documents to identify high concentrations of interdocument relationships which is consistent with the limitation of “ranking” as defined by Dictionary.com (page 1).

12. In regard to claims 23, 26-31, and 34-36, Hetzler discloses the method, system and program storage device (page 137, Introduction section, and page 138, last two paragraphs) for profiling an entity as cited above.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hetzler et al. (1998) (Hetzler hereafter) as applied to claims 17-20, 23, 26-31, and 34-36 above, and further in view of Vossen P. (2001) (Vossen hereafter).

16. Vossen describes the condensed hierarchies used as browse-interfaces to the documents complementary to retrieval shows considerable improvements (Vossen, Abstract etc.).

While, Hetzler describes an approach for visualizing the full spectrum of document relationships as directed to information retrieval systems (Hetzler, Abstract etc.). An artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated by Vossen to improve the document retrieval system of Hetzler by complementing said system with the condensed hierarchies described by Vossen.

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17. In regard to claims 21, 24, and 32, Hetzler describes all the limitations of said claim except for the limitation of the contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that contain the entity, in an ontology or taxonomy. Vossen discloses the contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes (page 4, column 1, last paragraph), that contain the entity, in an ontology (page 5, column 2, last paragraph) or taxonomy. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to improve the retrieval system of Hetzler by finding prominent nodes, that contain the entity, in an ontology or taxonomy as described by Vossen.

18. In regard to claims 22, 25, and 33, Hetzler describes all the limitations of said claim except for the limitation of the contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, etc. Vossen discloses the contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms (page 6, column 1, 2nd paragraph, and column 2, items 1-3), etc. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to improve the retrieval system of Hetzler wherein the contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, etc., as described by Vossen.

CONCLUSION

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Hetzler et al. (US006897866B1).

20. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number

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is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

21. For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199. The USPTO's official fax number is 571-272-8300.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Dune Ly, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

23. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo, can be reached on (571) 272-3642.

C. Dune Ly
Patent Examiner
7/23/06





rank

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5 entries found for *rank*.

rank¹ **Pronunciation Key** (răngk)
 n.

- a. A relative position in a society.
- b. An official position or grade: *the rank of sergeant*.
- c. A relative position or degree of value in a graded group.
- d. High or eminent station or position: *persons of rank*.
2. A row, line, series, or range.
3.
 - a. A line of soldiers, vehicles, or equipment standing side by side in close order.
 - b. **ranks** The armed forces.
 - c. **ranks** Personnel, especially enlisted military personnel.
4. **ranks** A body of people classed together; numbers: *joined the ranks of the unemployed*.
5. Games. Any of the rows of squares running crosswise to the files on a playing board in chess or checkers.

v. **ranked, rank-ing, ranks**

v. *tr.*

1. To place in a row or rows.
2. To give a particular order or position to; classify.